

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claim 37 has been canceled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into independent claim 23. Claim 23 has also been amended by deleting the phrase "wherein the modified stable polyisocyanates are not a foam." Claim 24 has been amended for readability purposes.

In the Official Action, the specification stands objected to as not providing proper antecedent basis for claims 48 and 49. Without addressing the propriety of this objection, and in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, the specification has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of originally filed claims 20 and 21 (page 46, lines 7-34 of the originally filed application). As previously explained, claims 48 and 49 are at least supported by the above disclosure, taken in connection with page 8, lines 4-5 and 9-11; page 10, last two lines, and page 31, lines 1-3. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-35 and 37-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, for the reasons set forth at pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action. Without addressing the propriety of the Examiner's comments, and in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 23 has been amended by deleting the objected-to phrase "wherein the modified stable polyisocyanates are not a foam." Accordingly, withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-27, 30, 31, 33-35, 42, 45, 48, 50, 55, 56 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Document No. 0 419 114. Without

addressing the Examiner's comments in connection with this rejection, it is noted that the rejection is moot in view of the above amendments, in which independent claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 37. Claim 37 has not been included in the above §102(b) rejection. Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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